

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
SUICIDE AMONG STUDENTS
J Helen Davidson;Sinha Shri Yashwant

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether corporal punishment is still in vogue in some of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether instances of students committing suicide after allegedly being tortured mentally and physically by their teachers in the country have been reported during the year 2010;
- (d) if so, the number of such incidents reported/registered in the country, Statewise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to explore legal and institutional options for prevention as such unfortunate incidents; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 ASKED BY SHRI YASHWANT SINHA AND SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON REGARDING SUICIDE AMONG STUDENTS FOR ANSWER ON 11.08.2010.

(a) and (b) : The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) states that "corporal punishment will be firmly excluded from the educational system". National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 clearly states that forms of disciplining such as corporal punishment and verbal and non-verbal abuse of children continue to feature in many schools and are used to demoralize and humiliate children in front of their peers and should be stopped. Central Board of Secondary Education has issued instructions to its affiliated schools not to resort to physical punishment of students. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have strictly prohibited corporal punishment in all their schools. This Ministry has written in December, 2007 to all State Governments to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under their jurisdiction. Several States have reported about steps taken by them in prohibiting corporal punishment in their schools.

(c) : There have been reports of sporadic incidents of suicides by students during 2010. However, education being a concurrent subject and a majority of schools being under the purview of the State Governments, such information is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) : As per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which is applicable to the elementary stage of school education and for children of age between six and fourteen, "no child shall be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment". The National Commission for Protection of the Child Rights has issued guidelines to all States in August, 2007, on prohibition of corporal punishment, receipt of complaints, procedure for adequate response to the complaints and creation of awareness to prevent such incidents. It has also issued additional guidelines in May, 2009.